

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 FBIE-00 OPR-02 SS-15 NSC-05
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 /055 W
-----310235Z 039676 /66

P R 310200Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 664
INFO AMCONSUL SURABAYA

S E C R E T MEDAN 0552

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID
SUBJ: BOMBINGS IN MEDAN

REFS: (A) JAKARTA 16674; (B) MEDAN 0550

1. ON DECEMBER 30TH POST TURNED OVER COPIES OF REFTEL DOCUMENTS TO A MILITARY POLICE OFFICIAL OF POMDAM II/BUKIT BARISAN UNIT AND QUESTIONED HIM ON SIGNIFICANCE OF BOMBS AND DOCUMENTS.
2. THE POLICE OFFICIAL SAID THE DOCUMENTS RECEIVED BY THE CONSULATE WERE SIMILAR TO MANY WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED RECENTLY AND WHICH ARE RECEIVING WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION IN THE CITY. ACCORDING TO HIM, SOME HAVE BEEN POSTED IN PUBLIC PLACES, SOME RECEIVED BY CERTAIN PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, AND OTHER SENT TO "TOKO-TOKO AGAMA" (RELIGIOUS STORES?). HE SAID OURS WAS THE FIRST CONSULATE TO REPORT GETTING THE DOCUMENTS. (COMMENT: POST HAS LEARNED THAT AT LEAST ONE OTHER CONSULATE HAS THE DOCUMENTS.)
3. HE CONVEYED THE GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAVE LEADS ON THE BOMBERS AND/OR THE DISTRIBUTORS OF THE DOCUMENTS, AND SAID THAT ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE. HE STATED INCREASED PRECAUTION FOR AMERICANS WERE IN ORDER, ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

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DAYS, AND THAT POLICE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WOULD BE PATROLLING POSSIBLE MEDAN TARGETS (I.E., MOSQUES, CHURCHES).

4. THE POLICE OFFICIAL INFORMED CONSULATE OFFICERS THAT THE TYPE OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES USED IN THE ATTACKS WERE SMALL PLASTIQUE BOMBS PROBABLY MADE FROM CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OBTAINED LOCALLY

FROM JOB SITES "SUCH AS THE ASAHAN PROJECT". HE SAID THEIR PURPOSE WAS NOT TO KILL BUT TO INJURE AND CREATE CONFUSION WHICH WOULD PROVOKE ABRI (ARMED FORCES) INTO RASH ATTACKS WHICH WOULD IN TURN HEIGHTEN TENSION DURING THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. THE POLICE OFFICIAL DENIED RUMORS THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY FATALITIES AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN UNCOVERED AN UNEXPLODED BOMB SOMEWHERE IN PEMATANGSIANTAR DURING THE HOLIDAYS. HE ALSO SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO MASSACRE IN LABUHAN BATU AS THE DOCUMENTS CLAIMED.

5. COMMENT: CONSULATE HAS CONTACTED LEADERS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO ADVISE CAUTION TO ALL U.S. RESIDENTS HERE, ESPECIALLY DURING NEW YEARS BREAK. WILL ADVISE ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
WORTH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
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